

ONLY 8 FIT PLAYERS

WYCOMBE Wanderers' scheduled visit to Ilford in the Rothmans Isthmian League on Saturday had to be called off late on Thursday night when two players went down with 'flu. This made a staggering total of seven players unfit to play (writes STUART EARP).

With only 15 players in the squad at the present time, Wanderers had no choice but to ask the league to postpone the game. This was agreed but the news was not released until 10 o'clock on Thursday night.

Wycombe already had five players who were almost certain to miss the Ilford game when they trained at Loakes Park on Thursday. Centre half John Delaney, full back Paul Birdseye, midfield men Terry Reardon and Dave Alexander plus forward Geoff Anthony were all struggling with injuries. Then goalkeeper John Maskell and Dylan Evans both went down with 'flu and after seeing the doctor, were sent home immediately to bed.

This left only eight fit men and Ilford, in a similar although less severe situation themselves, agreed to the postponement.

Fortunately for the Blues, they have no mid-week game this week and do not have to play until Saturday when they travel to Chesham in the semi-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. This will give both the 'flu victims and the injured players time to rest.

Even so, several of them could miss the Chesham game. John Delaney may be out for another fortnight at least with his damaged shoulder. Apparently the ligaments were affected.

Terry Reardon suffered a bad knock against Kingstonian last week, cracking a rib when he moved into the back four after Delaney had gone off injured.

Paul Birdseye is still struggling with an ankle injury which kept him out of the game for three weeks. The ankle is badly swollen and he could be out for two weeks.

Dave Alexander and Geoff Anthony both pulled hamstring muscles in the friendly against Millwall last Wednesday.

Having trimmed their squad three weeks ago by finding other clubs for Derek Cotterill, Paul Sussons and Derek Harris, Wanderers badly need more players to strengthen their playing staff. Unfortunately, players are hard to come by at this stage of the season; especially those of the right calibre.

This is the first time for many years Wycombe have had to postpone a match because of injury. Fixture secretary Jack Richardson said: "I can't remember this happening before in the 28 years I've been with the club."

Meanwhile, as Wanderers took a rare Saturday off, the Division One leaders Enfield were finding life tough at the top when they entertained Sutton United. They dropped a couple of points in a goalless draw and are now just two points clear. The club in second place is Dagenham who have made a rapid rise in recent weeks. They clinched an important 2-1 home win over F.A. Cup heroes Tooting and Mitcham thanks to goals from the veterans Ken Gray and Mal Harkins. Dave Juneman got Tooting's reply from the penalty spot.

Latest table

ROTHMANS Isthmian League

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pen Pts
Enfield	26	18	4	4	52	20	84	4 4
Dagenham	28	16	4	8	80	34	72	2 0
Hendon	28	15	7	6	80	21	52	1 4
Wycombe Wanderers	28	15	7	6	45	28	52	2 0
Ilford	27	15	8	8	36	25	51	9 0
Dulwich Hamlet	32	15	4	13	52	32	49	5 8
Slough Town	32	13	9	10	48	37	48	5 0
Sutton United	25	12	8	5	51	29	44	1 0
Tooting & Mitcham	24	12	6	6	42	21	42	0 0
Barking	25	12	7	6	42	24	41	5 8
Kingstonian	30	12	4	14	44	69	40	3 0
Harrow	31	8	4	9	31	34	38	5 4
Woking	32	11	5	6	47	50	38	8 4
Hitchin Town	31	10	8	13	31	30	40	1 0
Staines Town	28	10	7	9	23	24	37	4 0
Leatherhead	25	10	6	9	39	38	36	5 0
Bishop's Stortford	25	9	6	10	30	29	37	3 0
Walthamstow Avenue	28	8	8	12	24	22	32	7 0
Oxford City	30	8	8	14	24	32	30	7 0
Southall & Ealing	29	8	8	15	38	47	27	2 0
Leytonstone	31	5	9	17	23	24	24	5 0
Clapton	33	2	1	30	11	89	7	7 0

C = Caution 1pt. D = Dismissal 4pts.

Reggie Boreham

ONE of Wycombe Wanderers' best known players, Reggie Boreham, died last week after a long illness. He was 79.

Reggie Boreham was regarded as one of the best players of his era. After joining the Blues in 1919, he was signed by First Division Arsenal in 1922 and played a large part in helping them avoid relegation. In 1923 he returned to Wycombe and established a reputation as one of the finest centre forwards in amateur football.

He won two England caps before retiring from the game in 1927. Ten years later he became secretary of Wycombe Wanderers, a post he held for 13 years.

The funeral was held in High Wycombe Parish Church yesterday (Monday).

